



Sustainable Forestry Council

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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COUNCIL

September 13, 2011

Minutes

Attendees:

Gary Allen
Eric Sprague
Don Outen
Connie Hoge
Kim Finch
Greg Purnell
Kirk Rodgers

DNR:

Don VanHassent

Chairman Allen welcomed everyone and stated the primary objectives for the meeting were to review and build upon the latest draft report, plan for the distribution of the draft and set the meeting schedule for the first quarter of next year.

The no-net-loss recommendations will be communicated in two papers:

- Detailed assessment of recommendations (Eric, Don O., and Connie)
- Policy assessment: outlines how recommendations fit into existing programs and what changes are needed (Gary)

Detailed Assessment

- Forest Conservation Act
 - The Act is relevant throughout draft, but try to add some clarity on what changes are required
 - Ask Marian Honeczy for assessment of FCA policy changes due to NNL
 - Mitigation and prioritization
 - Expanding focus of FCA from parcel to landscape
- Keep assessment at 10 pages or less
- Don O. will work with Rob Feldt on developing a map that shows the three forest conservation zones: rural, exurban, and developed.
- Kirk suggested that there may not be much that we can recommend for the timber industry. Virginia does receive more subsidies than Maryland. SFC needs to review.
- Kirk also mentioned that continued development of ecosystem service markets is important for industry.
- Revise draft to tie to watershed implementation plans as much as possible

Policy Assessment

1. Statutory
 - a. Forest Conservation Act
2. Budgetary
 - a. Woodland Incentives Fund
3. Regulatory
 - a. Watershed Implementation Plan
 - b. Water Resource Element
 - c. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)
 - d. Reservoir protection
 - e. Anti-degradation/Tier II streams
4. Program
 - a. Plan Maryland and Priority Funding Areas
 - b. Incorporate forest conservation into Local land Preservation and Recreation Plan
a requirement of Program Open Space
 - c. Group certification
 - d. Buffer in a bag

The distribution of the draft report will be via e-mail from the Maryland Forest Service. DNR will also issue a press release and post the draft report on their website. The council decided to hold a public meeting to explain the issues and gather public input. This meeting is scheduled for October 18th at a location to be determined.

The next meeting will be held October 4 at a location to be determined beginning at 10:00 AM. Other meetings to incorporate comments into the final report will be scheduled in November to allow submission of the final report to the Secretary of DNR by December 1. The first three meetings of 2012 will be January 10, February 14 and March 13. Issues to include woody based biomass, mitigation from utility expansion, county allocations to woodland incentive fund, urban forests, and development a management map to help prioritize where to focus outreach and funding

Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald VanHassent